

DPP Stick News, Part Two

First Looks

Get Your RAW Files onto Your System

You can either connect your camera directly to your computer system, or take out the memory card and insert it into a card reader to copy your image files onto your computer to a folder of your choice. Here's some suggestions when you do this:

- ▶ Make two identical copies of the files on two different drives on your system. If one of your drives is faster, you will use that set as your "Working Copies". The other will be your "Backup Copies".
- ▶ Do not reformat the card or delete the image files either in the card reader or with your downloading program. Instead, after you are sure the two sets of files you created are intact, reformat the cards in the camera itself (i.e. "Format" instead of "Deleting" the files you transferred).

Dumping the Dust (You hope ...)

Start Digital Photo Professional by double clicking the shortcut on the desktop or on the Task Bar.

The DPP program starts at the Main Window. On the left is a panel with the contents of your system. Find the drive that holds your "Working Copies", and then that folder itself. Click to select it. In the window on the right, your images will now show as thumbnails or "slides". By clicking on View and then on Large thumbnail, Medium thumbnail, Small thumbnail, or Thumbnail with information you can choose how these show on the screen.

If you have a Canon DSLR more recent than a XTi, 30D or a 1DMkII (but not including a XS or a T3) your body has a Dust Delete function, which allows the camera to 'remember' where the dust on the sensor is located, and attach that information to each images. All you have to remember is to record those locations before you do a shoot (renewing it every time you have an important event, or if you haven't done it for a while).

If you have recorded the information, it is time to use it:

- ▶ Click on Edit and then on Select All. This will select all the thumbnails, and a new tint will be added to them to show this has happened.
- ▶ Click on Adjustment and then on Apply Dust Delete Data. Although you can not see any dust spots disappear, all the locations mapped previously will removed when you convert any or all of the images to TIFs or JPGs for further editing, display or printing ... trust me
- ▶ This process will take some time, especially if you have a lot of images and/or your system doesn't have much "grunt".
- ▶ When the process is complete, click OK.
- ▶ Click on File and then Save to preserve your "Dust Delete Corrections"

Dumping the Duds and Keeping the Stars

It is now time to choose which of the images you will want to work on as your better (best?) ones and which ones you will delete as useless, such as out of focus, blurred, incredibly under or over exposed, etc.).

If you purposely shot multiple frames because you were bracketing the scene:

- ▶ Click the first shot in the bracket series, then hold down the SHIFT key, and then click the last shot of the bracket series. That will select all the images in the bracket.
- ▶ Click “Quick check”.
- ▶ On the smaller window that opens, you can view the images in the bracket by clicking “Previous” and “Next”. You also can view them as fitting the window, at 50%, and full screen (press escape to get back to the windowed view).
- ▶ You can also rotate the images (if necessary) and view all the shooting information, and where the AF Focus point was located when you made the shot, all by clicking buttons.
- ▶ You now decide to keep all, some or none of the images in the bracketed set. You can click the Reject button to mark which ones you want to delete, and use the five-levels of check marks and/or the five levels of stars to mark which is which.
- ▶ When you are done, click OK. This closes the Quick check window, but any checkmark or star rankings you gave will be shown on the thumbnails, along with the word Reject on any you have decided to delete.
- ▶ Click File, then Save to preserve your selections.

If you purposely shot different images of the same subject or just one image of each different subjects:

- ▶ Click the first shot you want to consider as worthy of keeping or deletion, then hold down the SHIFT key, and then click the last shot being considered. That will select all the images being considered.
- ▶ Click “Quick check”.
- ▶ On the smaller window that opens, you can view the images being considered by clicking “Previous” and “Next”. You also can view them as fitting the window, at 50%, and full screen (press escape to get back to the windowed view).
- ▶ You can also rotate the images (if necessary) and view all the shooting information, and where the AF Focus point was located when you made the shot, all by clicking buttons.
- ▶ You now decide to keep all, some or none of the images being considered. You can use the Reject button to mark which ones you want to delete, and use the five-levels of check marks and/or the five levels of stars to mark which is which.
- ▶ When you are done, click OK. This closes the Quick check window, but any checkmark or star rankings you gave will be shown on the thumbnails, along with the word Reject on any you have decided to delete.
- ▶ Click File, then Save to preserve your selections.

Throwing the Switch

Now that you have selected your “Crappers” and your “Creampuffs” it time to “pull the trigger”:

- ▶ Click on Edit, then Rating, then Select Rejected Images Only
- ▶ Click on File, then Delete. This will bring up a dialogue that asks you if you are sure you want to put these images in the Recycle Bin. If you are sure, say Yes. If you aren't, say No.
- ▶ If you decide later that the decision to delete the images was dumb, or ill-advised, they will still be in your Recycle Bin (unless you emptied it, if you did, you are up the creek ... whoops, you're not up the creek BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE THE SAME FILE IN YOUR BACKUP FOLDER, right?). You can restore it from the Recycle bin or copy it back into your Working folder from your Backup folder (but all of your work done on that image is lost, and you will have to do the Dust Delete and Selection/Ranking again).

Next Time on DPP Stick ...

Editing the RAWs, Step One ... how to use the NR (Noise Reduction), LC (Lens Corrections), and ALO (Automatic Light Optimizer), and how to use the different views and information available.